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Applicants: Katsuyuki YAMADA et al.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1185 Ave. of the Americas
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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Attention is respectfully directed to the items of information (copy enclosed) listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. This item was cited in a Search Report from the European Patent Office (copy also enclosed) in applicants' counterpart European patent application.

I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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Date APRIL 15, 2003